

Practical Cover Cropper - Cover cropping stories from the field

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Fall cover crop update: three farmers, three choices

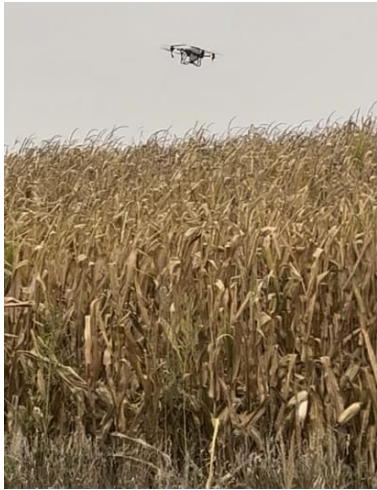
Harvest and cover crop planting is winding down! We spoke to three PFI members about the methods they used to get their cover crops of choice planted this fall.



Roger Harrington of Ollie, Iowa, opted to use several different seeding methods for his cover crops including broadcast seeding, drone application and drilling covers following harvest.

Ahead of corn, Roger uses a four-species cover crop mix of tillage radishes, turnips, rape and forage collards. He applied the mix using both broadcast and drone application in early September, and they already have substantial growth. After cover cropping for over ten years, Roger is keen to experiment: "I'm trying to get some added benefits from using different species in the mix," says Roger.

Roger just wrapped up drilling cereal rye on 600 acres in mid-October at one bushel per acre. With the warm weather and rain, the cereal rye has just begun to emerge.



Laurel, Iowa, farmer **Ron Rethmeier** grows corn and soybeans and has opted to use a drone for planting the last two years on his 53 cover-cropped acres. Ron's main reason for choosing the drone? "I don't have much time to plant cover crops, so I found something time-saving," Ron says.

Ron worked with a local drone operator to have them fly on 60 pounds per acre of cereal rye in early September. Last year, Ron tried a mix of oats and radishes on some acres and they didn't get good growth before they winter-killed, so he opted for a cereal rye this year for more winter growth.



Jordan Brichacek farms near Dodge, Nebraska, where he, too, tried multiple seeding methods for his covers this fall.

Jordan used a 42-foot air seeder for over 1,000 acres and also tried broadcasting on 265 acres.

At Jordan's farm, they began planting covers in early September and are continuing to plant into late October.

On 75 percent of their acres, they seed cereal rye and on the remaining 25 percent they grow wheat that will serve as a cover crop, but come spring, some of that wheat will be grown for cover crop seed.

"We usually seed one bushel per acre for just cover crops and if it is going to be grown for seed, it will be seeded at 90 pounds," he says.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Don't miss out – fill out our simple \$10/acre cover crop cost-share application



Seeding cover crops this fall? Don't leave money on the table! We pay \$10 per acre on unlimited cover cropped acres for non-organic corn and soybeans.

Our cover crop cost-share application takes only 10 minutes to fill out and is non-binding.

Reserve your funding before applications close Dec. 1.

Share your ideas with us!



Are you interested in hosting a field day or a social on your farm? Do you know someone with knowledge to share with the Practical Farmers' community?

We want to hear from you!

To express interest or share your idea, reply to this email to contact Taylor or **use this form.**

IN THE FIELD

Video: "Suppressing Waterhemp with Cover Crops"



Waterhemp and other herbicide-resistant weeds in the pigweed family are a growing problem in soybean production.

PFI members **Jon Bakehouse, Ben Dwire and Will Cannon** explain how using cover crops has helped keep populations in check.

Learn how growing a cereal rye cover crop ahead of soybeans helps shade out waterhemp and increases the herbicide application window [in our latest video.](#)

Results from year five of cereal rye variety trials



The latest results of our ongoing "Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial" are now in.

The project, carried out at Iowa State University research farms across the state over the past five years, aims to test how a range of varieties grow in different conditions. This year, we trialed 11 cereal rye varieties and one winter triticale variety.

[View the top-yielding varieties for 2023.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference



Nov. 14 | 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Holdrege, NE

Join us at the [Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference](#), "Building Your Soil from the Ground Up," hosted by Central Community College-Holdrege. **For discounted rates, please register by Nov. 6.**

PFI is sponsoring the conference, including specific sessions with a focus on cover crops and grazing. We will host a social at J.B.'s Sports Bar and Grill in Holdrege after the conference, starting at 5 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Save the date: PFI 2024 Annual Conference



Jan. 19-20 | All Day | Des Moines, IA

Save the date for **PFI's 2024 Annual Conference** taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, this year!

This two-day event will feature a range of topics including cover crop fallow systems, cover crop strategies ahead of corn and planter set-up for cover crops and no-till.

Watch for registration to open in November 2023!

Friends of PFI events

Nov. 7: Conference – Cover Crop Grazing Conference

Hosted by: University of Nebraska Extension

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Mead, NE

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

Nov 15: Webinar – Perennial and Winter Annual Crops for Economic and Environmental Benefit

Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms & Matt Leavitt

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Nov. 8: Conference – Transition to Organic Farming Conference

Hosted by: University of Nebraska Extension

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Ithaca, NE

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

Nov. 26-27: Conference – Iowa Organic Conference

Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension

Sun. 5 p.m.-Mon., 5 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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Chat with any of us by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.

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